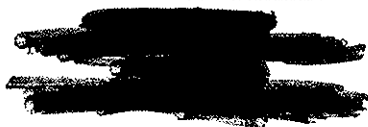


RANDALL GABRIELAN



February 7, 2012

Anthony Fiore, Mayor
Township of Middletown
1 Kings Highway
Middletown New Jersey 07748

RE: Middletown Township Public Library

Dear Mr. Fiore:

I have contemplated long and hard the provision of *N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.5(d)* after reading your letter claiming I had a conflict of interest, an ethical stricture I had not previously read, and even after the library's counsel indicated that it clearly prohibited the sale for profit to an organization by a person subject to the law, I was not convinced that matters of insignificant sums were barred. However, after the reading of a far-reaching interpretation in a decision of the Office of Administrative Law in a Local Finance Board case, I understand that signing vouchers for my minor sales constitutes a violation as the small amounts involved do not matter. Accordingly, I hereby resign as president and trustee of the Middletown Township Public Library effective this date.

I was dismayed by the proceedings of the January 18th library board meeting during which I was duly re-elected as president for reasons which do not need iteration here. It is obvious that the newly appointed group has an approach to the library and an inclination to act as a bloc that would make my dealing with them discordant at best and disruptive at worst. Your next appointment to the board, unexpectedly occasioned sooner by the resignation of another trustee, will give your group an absolute majority. The entire township should hope they will act in good conscience for the continued betterment of the outstanding library that I have helped build through 25 years of service on its board of trustees. Rather than struggle with the new realities, I choose to recall and take satisfaction with the joint accomplishments of the boards on which I have served, the outstanding leadership by the library's current director Ms. O'Neal and her predecessor Ms. Huang, the significant contributions of the prior Friends of the Middletown Library, the present work of the Middletown Public Library Foundation and the on-going hard work of a talented and dedicated staff. I also recognize the fine cooperation of prior township committees, notably the 2002 group that voted unanimously to assume the capital expense of a total reconstruction and major expansion of the library. Through all of their efforts and mine, Middletown can be proud for having one of the finest libraries in the state.

I leave and write without rancor and contentiousness. In order for the people of Middletown to continue to have such a fine library, I wish the present board with its many newcomer trustees a needed quick learn in order to maintain and expand excellence during these perilous times when library service throughout New Jersey is threatened. A trustee's love and dedication to his library and to the importance of libraries in all of public life should not end with his position and mine does not. I will follow the progress of the Middletown Library.

Respectfully yours,



Randall Gabrielan, President, Board of Trustees, Middletown Township Public Library

Cc: Members, Library Board of Trustees,
Heidi Brunt, Middletown Township Clerk